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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 02109 021141Z

16
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

IO-13 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-02 OMB-01

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P 021015Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5353
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: DECON AFTER ONE YEAR
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SF
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL BANNINGS: LOCAL REACTIONS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 2062

1. THREE MORE PERSONS HAVE BEEN BANNED FOR FIVE YEARS UNDER THE SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNISM ACT SINCE REFTEL REPORT, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 25. THEY ARE: MR JEREMY BASKIN, OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT). STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL WAGES COMMISSION; MR. GIDEON COHEN (22), A FORMER UCT STUDENT; AND MR ERIC ABRAHAM (22), CAPE TOWN CORRESPONDENT FOR SEVERAL FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS.

2. A DELEGATION FROM THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH
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PAGE 02 JOHANN 02109 021141Z

AFRICA (TUCSA) IS TO MEET WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE

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KRUGER ON DECEMBER 2 TO ESTABLISH WHY THE BANNING ORDERS HAVE BEEN SERVED ON A NUMBER OF TRADE UNIONISTS AND OTHERS INVOLVED WITH BLACK LABOR PROBLEMS. TUCSA GENERAL SECRETARY GROBBELAAR IS QUOTED IN THE PRESS AS SAYING: "SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNATIONAL STANDING WAS AT AN ALL TIME LOW EVEN BEFORE THE BANNINGS. THIS LATEST ARBITRARY ACTION IS BEING INTERPRETED AS AN ALL OUT ATTACK ON THE BLACK TRADE UNION MOVEMENT COMBINED WITH AN ENCROACHMENT ON CIVIL LIBERTIES."

3. PROFESSOR S P CILLIERS, CHAIRMAN, AND DAVID L. VAN COLLER, DIRECTOR, OF THE INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (IIR), INFORMED THE LABOR OFFICER ON DECEMBER 1 THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THEIR ORGANIZATION'S EXECUTIVE BODY HAS BEEN CALLED TO CONSIDER THE BANNNGS. THEY EXPECT A DECISION WILL BEREACHED FOR CILLERS TO PROTEST THE BANNINGS TO THE SAG.

4. CILLIERS BELIEVES THE BANNING ORDERS ARE DESIGNED TO FRUSTRATE BUT NOT TOTALLY ELIMINATE THE BLACK LABOR MOVEMENT. HE FINDS IT SIGNIFICANT THAT MOST OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED ARE WHITE ADVISORS AND NOT BLACK ORGANIZERS.

5. EMMA MASHANINI OF THE COMMERCIAL CATERING AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION, AN URBAN TRAINING PROJECT (UTP) ASSOCIATE, INFORMED THE LABOFF THAT THE BANNINGS HAVE SERIOUSLY INHIBITED RANK AND FILE SUPPORT FOR THE BLACK LABOR MOVEMENT. THE LEADERS OF THE NINE BLACK UNIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UTP ARE THEREFORE CONDUCTING A CAMPAIGN TO MAKE BLACK WORKERS AWARE THAT ALTHOUGH THEIR UNIONS CANNOT BE REGISTERED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THEY ARE NOT ILLEGAL.

6. JOHANN MAREE OF THE DURBAN BASED WORKERS ADVICE BUREAU (NAB) SEES THE BANNINGS AS "AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE ONE OF THE LAST CHANNELS OF PEACEFUL ORGANIZATION AVAILABLE TO AFRICAN WORKERS." HE BELIEVES THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE BANNINGS WILL DESTROY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE FAITH OF BLACK WORKERS IN LEGAL AND PEACEFUL TRADE UNIONS, AND LEAD THEM TO LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS. CILLIERS ALSO BELIEVES THE BLACK UNIONS PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE DURING THE VIOLENT DISTURBANCES LAST JUNE AND JULY AND THEAT THEY ARE NECESSARY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTHY INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA. JOHNSON

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